

Roxbury, May 7, 1866.

Dear Mr. May:

MS. A. 1. 2. v. 41 p. 41c

Your very kind and considerate letter, — enclosing a check for \$500 in my behalf on account of the Testimonial fund, and also the names of those obtained to the appeal, — was safely put into my hands, and read with heartfelt emotions of gratitude towards yourself personally, and those who desire to show their appreciation of my past Anti-Slavery labors generally, by making my declining years free from pecuniary anxiety and embarrassment. The whole affair is an utter surprise to me. No such Testimonial had I dreamed of, — feeling that I had always been amply compensated by a gracious Providence, whether in regard to spiritual or material comfort, for whatever of obloquy and ostracism I may have encountered, or peril incurred, or toil performed, during the long and trying struggle for the abolition of slavery in our land. Nor could I

possibly accept it on the score of special personal merit; for very many others have labored not less devotedly and untiringly, (yourself among the number,) to "break every yoke and let the oppressed go free"; and we have all been richly rewarded in the consciousness of well-doing, and the liberation from chains and slavery of the hapless millions who challenged our sympathy and aid. It is not its personal application that is peculiarly agreeable to my feelings, but because it will be a handsome vindication of the Anti-Slavery movement as such, and of the Abolitionists as a body, from the cruel aspersions to which they were constantly subjected for a period of more than thirty years — a vindication by Congressional Senators and Representatives from twenty-one States, Governors, college professors, judges, lawyers, merchants, and other prominent members of society — headed by the Chief Justice of the United States. On that ground the Testimonial will prove of historical significance and value,

and give a new illustration of the fact that
"—ever the right comes uppermost,
And ever is justice done."

On examining the list of names appended to the appeal, I am truly astonished at the success attending your efforts to obtain them. Six years ago, you could not have secured, probably, one tenth of the number. What a marvellous change in feeling, sentiment, and appreciation has been wrought towards us in that brief period! And it is most gratifying to know, from your lips, that no importunity was needed to induce any ~~one~~ to subscribe his name; for you found a very willing mind in every instance.

My dear friend, I feel sure that to you I am mainly indebted for the conception of this Testimonial, and doubtless shall be for its completion, as far as that may be practicable. My ever faithful coadjutor, Edmund Quincy, has also seconded it with a hearty good will, I am

equally certain. My indebtedness to you both, therefore, already large through numerous kindnesses extended to me through all the years of our mighty conflict since we first joined hands, will be greatly augmented; and it will never be forgotten by me while aught of memory is left.

How much of the generous sum named in the appeal can be obtained remains to be seen. I shall be neither disappointed nor mortified if it shall prove a comparative failure; for I know full well how, in other cases where there seemed to be no lack of good-will or liberal purpose, it has proved an up-hill work to obtain any considerable donation. The most direct personal application is needed to secure the desired amount.

Not needing, at present, the check you enclosed, and not wishing to receive any thing from the fund in its present state, I have returned the check to Mr. Endicott.

Your grateful friend,
Rev. Samuel May, Jr. Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Ms. A. 1. 2. v. 4. 1 p. 41c